

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 22, 2007

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2007–08 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 295

Introduced by Assembly Member Lieu
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Eng, Hayashi, Ma, and Torrico)
(Coauthor: Senator Yee)

February 9, 2007

An act to amend Section 8310.5 of, and to add Section ~~8310.6~~ 8310.7 to, the Government Code, relating to state agencies.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 295, as amended, Lieu. State agencies: collection of demographic data.

Existing law requires any state agency, board, or commission that directly or by contract collects demographic data as to the ancestry or ethnic origin of Californians to use separate collection categories and tabulations for each major Asian and Pacific Islander group, including, but not limited to, Chinese, Japanese, Filipino, Korean, Vietnamese, Asian Indian, Hawaiian, Guamanian, Samoan, Laotian, and Cambodian.

This bill would require specified state agencies to use additional separate collection categories and tabulations for other major Asian and Pacific Islander groups, including Bangladeshi, Fijian, Hmong, Indonesian, Malaysian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, Taiwanese, Thai, and Tongan. This bill would also require that these specified state agencies update their data collection categories to match those used by the United States Census. This bill would further require that state agencies that directly or by contract collect demographic data, make their demographic reports available to the public, to the extent that disclosure does not violate confidentiality.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature hereby finds and declares all of
2 the following:
- 3 (a) More than one-third of the nation's Asians and Pacific
4 Islanders live in California, making the state home to more Asians
5 and Pacific Islanders than any other state in the ~~country~~ nation.
- 6 (b) Asians and Pacific Islanders represent 14 percent of the
7 state's population, and grew by 52 percent from 1990 to 2000.
- 8 (c) Asians and Pacific Islanders are an incredibly diverse group.
9 The United States Census reports data for more than 20 different
10 ethnicities within this group.
- 11 (d) While Asians and Pacific Islanders are often misrepresented
12 as a homogeneous group, they actually represent dozens of different
13 cultures, languages, and ethnic groups and have a wide range of
14 economic, educational, and social needs.
- 15 (e) Existing state law requires state demographic data to be
16 divided into some Asian and Pacific Islander ethnic groups.
17 However, additional groups reported by the United States Census
18 are not included in state demographic data.
- 19 (f) Given the diversity of languages and cultures, separating
20 data for additional Asian and Pacific Islander ethnic groups is
21 critical for enhancing our state's understanding of the needs and
22 experiences of these different communities.
- 23 SEC. 2. Section 8310.5 of the Government Code is amended
24 to read:
- 25 8310.5. (a) Any state agency, board, or commission that
26 directly or by contract collects demographic data as to the ancestry
27 or ethnic origin of Californians shall use separate collection
28 categories and tabulations for each major Asian and Pacific Islander
29 group, including, but not limited to, Chinese, Japanese, Filipino,
30 Korean, Vietnamese, Asian Indian, Hawaiian, Guamanian, Samoan,
31 Laotian, and Cambodian.
- 32 (b) During the normal process of reporting demographic data,
33 any state agency, board, or commission shall report the collected
34 data according to each Asian and Pacific Islander group specified

1 in subdivision (a) and make available to the public to the extent
2 that disclosure does not violate confidentiality.

3 SEC. 3. Section ~~8310.6~~ 8310.7 is added to the Government
4 Code, to read:

5 ~~8310.6.~~

6 8310.7. (a) In addition to the duties imposed under Section
7 8310.5, the following state agencies, in the course of collecting
8 demographic data directly or by contract as to the ancestry or ethnic
9 origin of Californians, shall collect and tabulate data for additional
10 major Asian and Pacific Islander groups, including, but not limited
11 to, Bangladeshi, Fijian, Hmong, Indonesian, Malaysian, Pakistani,
12 Sri Lankan, Taiwanese, Thai, and Tongan:

13 (1) The State Department of Health Care Services.

14 (2) The State Department of Public Health.

15 (3) The State Department of Education.

16 (4) The State Department of Social Services.

17 (5) The Employment Development Department.

18 (6) The Department of Industrial Relations.

19 (7) The State Personnel Board.

20 (8) The Department of Fair Employment & Housing.

21 (b) During the normal process of reporting demographic data,
22 the state agencies shall report the collected data according to each
23 Asian and Pacific Islander group specified in subdivision (a) and
24 make available to the public to the extent that disclosure does not
25 violate confidentiality.

26 (c) The state agencies outlined in subdivision (a) shall comply
27 as early as possible, but no later than July 1, 2009.

28 (d) Notwithstanding subdivision (c), the state agencies pursuant
29 to subdivision (a) shall, within 18 months after the United States
30 Census is released to the public, update their data collection to
31 reflect the additional Asian and Pacific Islander groups as they are
32 reported by the United States Census.